



LOGBOOK

NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd

June 2009



Mystery at SIBS
Page 5

**Boats & Biofuel
dangers**
Page 7

Electric boats; perfect green addition to hire boat fleets

Eco Boats Australia, is a new BIA member offering luxury electric boats that are emission-free, low-maintenance, will cruise for a whole day, and cost less than a dollar to recharge.

Steven Mullie of Eco Boats Australia started his business in sales and hire of electric boats to offer a green alternative in boating.

"The beautiful thing is that electric boats are so quiet," he said. "It's a lifestyle boat, perfect for relaxed day or sunset cruising on the harbour, lake or river with family, friends or business associates."

These new boats employ the latest technology, but electric boats themselves have been around since the late 1800s. They remained popular into the 1920s, when the arrival of the internal combustion engine saw people fuelling their boats with the faster technology. That's all changing now.

Steven said the threat of global warming and rising fuel prices had generated a lot of interest in electric boats in his native Holland.

"Electric boating is getting a lot of attention from councils who've decided to clean up their act, reducing noise and pollution on their waterways. Some rivers and canals already only allow electric-powered vessels."

In the USA, electric boats are a hit with owners of waterfront properties and are popular with both men and women because they are so easy to operate and maintain.

Just like a golf cart, with an electric boat all you have to do is flip a switch and grab the wheel. They run off batteries which recharge from normal household power or top up on the run from optional solar panels.

For water sports enthusiasts wanting to reduce their ecological footprint, electric boats are the way to go.

"With cruising speeds of four knots, a trip on an electric boat is all about relaxing and unwinding," Steven said. "Some people want speed, but we're offering a social event that brings friends and family together and doesn't cost the earth."

Eco Boats represents both imported and locally built electric boat brands such as the Duffy Electric Boat Co from California, but also drive systems, such as Torqeedo electric outboard motors.



The Duffy 16 Classic.

Each model is constructed from the highest quality materials for long life and durability. Where combustion engines have hundreds of moving parts, which can all break down, an electric motor has just one moving part – they are extremely reliable and almost maintenance free.

Since starting the business about six months ago they have made their demonstration models available for self drive trips on Sydney's Middle Harbour, with lots of interest from the public resulting in good rental returns.

"Electric boats are the perfect addition to an existing hire boat fleet or for waterfront resorts and holiday parks. The boats are ideal for family outings, almost maintenance free, safe, and cheap to run. It's also a great way to boost your operations green credentials as these boats do not pollute the environment and can operate on ecologically sensitive waterways," Steven said.

Eco Boats joined the BIA in 2008.

↓ **Eco Boats Australia** is a new player on the Australian marine market. Eco Boats is founded by Steven Mullie and operates from Northbridge Marina, NSW (by appointment only). Tel: 02 9929 8834; www.ecoboats.com.au

Drive Marine appointed distributor for Tredgrip

Drive Marine has been appointed the NSW distributor for Tredgrip anti-slip coating and Dave Giddings is excited about the new addition to Drive Marine's range of products.

"It is superior to all the other non-slip products in the marketplace, in fact its non-skid properties exceed Australian standards," Giddings said.

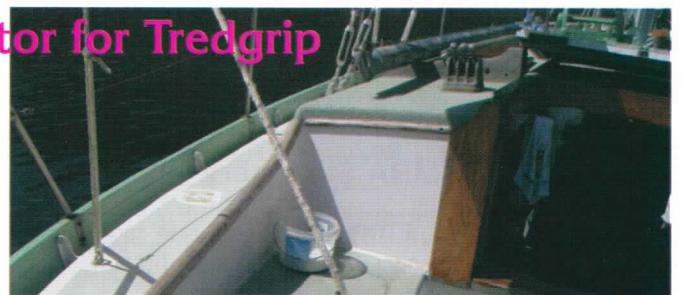
Tredgrip is manufactured in Australia and is recommended for domestic and light commercial use. It is ideal for restoring non-skid areas on boats.

Dave is also enthusiastic about the feel of Tredgrip.

"Because it contains a synthetic rubber rather than grit, it is not abrasive like other products on the market and it won't take skin off or damage clothing and is gentle on bare feet," he said. "Other non-slip products can be harsh but Tredgrip provides cushioning so is a great product to use on areas where crew and passengers sit."

Water based Tredgrip is a high build acrylic copolymer which has a cross-linked, crumbed rubber incorporated. It is strong and flexible and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. The lighter colours also improve heat reflection and help with noise reduction on deck.

Tredgrip is ideal to use as a non-skid protective membrane where permanent flexibility is required. It can be applied to timber,



concrete, plywood, fibreglass, steel and masonry surfaces making it a perfect product for use on boats and around the waterfront. Although it can be used for waterproofing and is resistant to both saltwater and chlorine, the manufacturers don't recommend using it in areas that are permanently immersed in water (such as swimming pools).

It has good resistance to most solvents and chemicals and resists fungal and algae attack.

Dave is currently looking for BIA members who would like to retail Tredgrip.

For more information: Drive Marine Services 02 9533 5470 or 0412 366 998 or www.boatcraftnsw.com.au

Drive Marine Services are a family business and have been a member of the BIA since 1997.